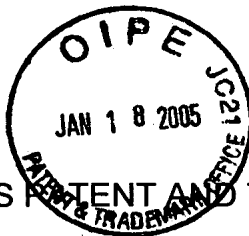


P23700.A06



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA
Group Art Unit : 2851
Appl. No. : 10/646,860
Examiner : Arthur A. SMITH
Filed : August 25, 2003
Confirmation No. : 1496
For : OPTICAL ELEMENT RETRACTING MECHANISM FOR A
PHOTOGRAPHING LENS

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in Office Actions that were mailed on December 28, 2004 with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,193 and 10/815,194:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,791,441 to NISHI et al., which issued on December 13, 1988;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 4,451,129 IKARI et al., which issued on May 29, 1984.

Applicant notes that this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement;

- (3) U.S. Patent No. 3,377,427 to FISCHER, which issued on April 9, 1968;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,715,482 to WAKABAYASHI et al., which issued on February 3, 1998;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 4,597,657 to WAKABAYASHI, which issued on July 1, 1986;
- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-313790, which was published on November 29, 1996, together with an English language abstract of the same;
- (7) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-230263, which was published on August 19, 1994, together with an English language abstract of the same;
- (8) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-254054, which was published on September 25, 1998, together with an English language abstract of the same; and
- (9) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-149723, which was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement. Since this publication was already submitted in the previous Information Disclosure Statement, a copy of the same is not submitted herewith. However, since the English-language translation of the present abstract of this publication is from a different source than the previously-submitted translated abstract, Applicant submits herewith a copy of this English-language Abstract.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of documents (6)-(8) and the abstract of (9) are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application;

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Applicant further calls to the Examiner's attention U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0227844 to SAKAMOTO, which was published on November 18, 2004. Applicant notes that while the publication is not prior art to the present application and the claims contained therein are not understandable to the Applicant of the present application, in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §135, Applicant calls this publication to the Examiner's attention in the event that the

P23700.A06

Examiner may determine that any claims therein contain subject matter that is substantially the same as any of the claims of the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

Willi Boshuik
Reg. No. 44,550
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

January 14, 2005
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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P23700	Application No. 10/646,860
		Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA	
		Filing Date August 25, 2003	Group 2851

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4	7	9	1	4	4	1	12/13/88	NISHI et al.				
	4	4	5	1	1	2	9	05/29/84	IKARI et al.				
	3	3	7	7	4	2	7	04/09/68	FISCHER				
	5	7	1	5	4	8	2	02/03/98	WAKABAYASHI				
	4	5	9	7	6	5	7	07/01/86	WAKABAYASHI				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO
	8	-	3	1	3	7	9	0	11/29/96	JAPAN				
	6	-	2	3	0	2	6	3	08/19/94	JAPAN				
	10	-	2	5	4	0	5	4	09/25/98	JAPAN				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	English Language Abstract of JP 8-313790.
	2	English Language Abstract of JP6-230263.
	3	English Language Abstract of JP 10-254054.
	4	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-149723.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	